



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

**Iowa Commission on Native American Affairs Meeting
Four Directions Community Center
613 Water St., Sioux City, IA
Friday, October 11, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Invocation – Frank LaMere

Call to Order – Karen Mackey called the meeting to order. At this time, quorum was not established, awaiting the arrival of additional commissioners. (Quorum established at 9:40 a.m.)

Members Present: Karen Mackey, Chair pro-tem until Judy Yellowbank's arrival, Judy Yellowbank (9:20 a.m.), Larry Lasley (9:22 a.m.), Dirk Whitebreast (9:40 a.m.), Franklin Phillips, Keith Carpenter, Joe Dan Coulter, Kelly Montijo-Fink, Dawn Buffalo, Vicky Apala-Cuevas,

Guests: Heidi Smith, DHR Deputy Director/CAS Division Administrator, Linda Scott, Secretary to CAS, Frank LaMere, Four Directions Community Center, Matt Ohman, Executive Director, SHIP (Siouxland Human Investment Partnership), Shane Frisch, Department of Human Services, Tom Bouska, Department of Human Services, Sue Fleming, Sioux City Human Rights Commission

Approval of Minutes: Coulter moved to approve the July 12, 2013 minutes. Montijo-Fink seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Report: None

DHR Report: Smith updated the commission on Avery's progress after surgery. She passed around a legislative action alert pertaining to the federal government shutdown on Indian health. Because of its length, there was only one copy available for review. Smith will e-mail the document to all commissioners.

Capitol Display Committee Report: Coulter reported there's been little progress made on this issue. Danielle Plogmann has received some answers regarding the process for the displays and Smith relayed the information to the commission. Basically, anyone wanting to use the display cases must make a request through the

Legislative Council. There is no specific format or form to use, but a request needs to be addressed to Sen. Michael Gronstal and Rep. Kraig Paulsen, Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

Smith suggested that the committee write a letter to the Council explaining the benefit and importance of the flag display. From the information Plogmann received, it is unclear whether there is a cost involved for things such as space needs, upkeep and permanency.

Coulter proposed that the committee review what the commission really wants and both he and Lasley could draft a letter and present it to the Council with the commission's approval. Lasley suggested that they meet with Sen. Gronstal to talk about the display and Coulter felt that if there was space restrictions, that at least the four (4) tribes' flags be displayed – Ponca, Omaha, Winnebago and Meskwaki. Lasley would like to see if we could get enough space to accommodate any tribal flag that feels a link to the state of Iowa. Smith will send the information received by Plogmann to all commissioners for their information and at the suggestion of Buffalo, possibly get a photograph of the space to determine what might be able to be displayed.

ICWA and Juvenile Justice: Yellowbank indicated that the subcommittee has not had a lot of interaction, but they have asked Shane Frisch and Tom Boschke to appear before the commission to provide an overview of their offices and their work on the Iowa Child Welfare Act and with the Native American community. Matt Ohman also appeared before the commission to talk about the Siouxland Human Investment Program.

Montijo-Fink asked Lamere if he could tell the commission a little about Four Directions and the services they provide. He gave an in-depth look at Four Directions and the Native population in the area. Smith also added on the Juvenile Justice side of this report that in speaking with David Kuker, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division he has indicated that the committee would be more than happy to have someone from this commission serve on their committee. Coulter and Phillips expressed an interest in serving.

Coulter suggested that this be kept on as a standing agenda item and feels it should be kept separate from the report provided by the Department of Corrections and Judy Morrison.

Tribal Community Collaborations: Coulter and Lasley proposed that this also be a standing item on the agenda at each commission meeting, with leadership or spokespersons of the different tribal communities invited to present before the commission to talk about what they perceive as issues that this commission might address. Coulter would like the commission to go on record as encouraging the

department to find some resources to allow them to pay a small stipend for leaders to come to the meetings and offer a brief presentation before the commission.

Lasley felt that it might be nice to send a letter of invitation to local tribal chairmen, administrators or representatives to attend commission meetings when they're held in their respective areas, encouraging them to let the commission know what they have to say as the commission wants to know how it can fulfill our charge under state law. Carpenter went on to say that it might be a good idea to draft a letter to the four (4) tribal councils and each time a meeting is scheduled, that letter could go out to the councils asking them to send a representative.

Discussion also took place about the Affordable Care Act (ACA), navigators and health issues of the Native American population in Iowa.

Coulter moved that Health (community health, health care, etc.) become a standing agenda item at all commission meetings. Lasley seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

LUNCH BREAK

New Business:

Election of New Chair and Vice Chair: Apala-Cuevas moved to nominate Mackey for the position of Chair. Montijo-Fink seconded.

Mackey moved to nominate Yellowbank for the position of Vice Chair. Carpenter seconded.

Coulter moved that nominations cease. Lasley seconded. There being no discussion, motions carried by ballot vote.

Preparation of talking points for the meeting with the Governor: After much discussion among the commissioners, the following points will be brought up in half-hour meeting with Governor Branstad on November 1, 2013 in Des Moines.

- ICWA and the Juvenile Justice system
- Inviting the department directors to attend the NAA commission meetings, especially when in the Des Moines area
- Health care in the Native American community
- Schools-to-Prison Pipeline that exists, especially for the Native community
- Increasing Native American representation on the Boards and Commissions
- The social media impasse that we're currently at within the department
- Inviting the Governor to attend one or more of the NAA commission meetings
- The need for a budget increase within the department and for the commissions

Chair also asked Montijo-Fink to come up with a one-page document of bullet points that the Governor could take away from their meeting that might address education. Montijo-Fink accepted the challenge but will be forwarding her draft to Smith, who in turn will forward to the commissioners asking for feedback and she would then compile the points for the commission.

Buffalo also suggested that Montijo-Fink put some links into her one-page document where the Governor and staff could refer to on such things as cultural competency. Yellowbank would also like to see the Governor's appointee to the commission attend any and all commission meetings and keep in contact with the commissioners.

Letter Regarding Ponca Housing Authority: In Judy Allen's absence, the commission reviewed the proposed letter. Coulter moved that the commission approve and endorse the statement in the letter so that Allen can move forward. Carpenter seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Smith will put the letter on commission letterhead and send out.

Whitebreast Request: Yellowbank pointed out that Whitebreast wanted an opportunity to be placed on the agenda under New Business to talk about his role on the Board of Advisors for the Center for Native American Youth in Washington, DC and what programs or facilities, tools and resources are available for young people and adults who are going through any kind of loss in their lives?

Discussion took place

Old Business:

Lasley departs 2:45 p.m.

Proclamations for November: Smith advised that the Proclamations for Native American Heritage Month, the Memorial March and Veterans Day are in the Governor's office at this time. Plogmann advised by text that the Governor's office will sign the Proclamations at the time of the November 1 meeting.

Native American Prisoners Spiritual Rights: In the absence of Judy Morrison, Department of Corrections, Apala-Cuevas has been asked to provide an update on the rights and responsibilities of Native American offenders. The document has been given to the Wardens, not for their approval, but for their information. It is now in the hands of the treatment directors for the same reason. About December 1, they will be traveling to each prison to go over the rights and responsibilities of the offenders. Once that's done, and they approve, then it's a "go". The document does stay within federal law, protecting sacred items, ceremonies, etc.

Montijo-Fink asked for an updated copy of the document. Apala-Cuevas will ask Morrison for the finalized document and will forward to Smith to e-mail to all commissioners.

Schedule Next Meeting: Carpenter moved that the commission hold the next meeting on Friday, February 28, 2014 in Des Moines. Coulter seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Announcements: Smith attended the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board in August in Aberdeen, South Dakota. She made available some information she'd received at the Conference for anyone wanting the information.

Buffalo announced Meskwaki Tribe will be holding a Veteran's Day PowWow, Saturday, November 9 at the Tribal Center gym.

Yellowbank informed the commission that Four Directions is doing some fundraising for the Annual Monster Mash PowWow to be held the weekend before Halloween and then fundraising for the 5th Annual Children's Commission on Health Care, December 14. Also a reminder of the Memorial March, November 27 where they will again be partnering with Briar Cliff University to be held at the University.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn: There being no further business before the commission, meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Linda Scott, staff